

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1, 6-7 and 14-16 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 2 and 4-5 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A storage system ~~according to Claim 1~~ comprising a first storage control device and a second storage control device connected so as to be capable of communicating with each other and executing data processing according to a request from a host device,  
wherein the first storage control device comprises:  
first control means for judging whether or not the second storage control device can execute a predetermined data processing function relating to a first request received from the host device and, only after said first control means judges that the second control device can execute said predetermined data processing function, said first control means generates a second request corresponding to the first request for taking over said predetermined data processing function by the second storage control device and transmits it to the second storage control device,  
wherein the second storage control device comprises:  
second control means for executing the predetermined data processing function based on the second request received from the first storage control device such that the second storage control device takes over said predetermined data processing function relating to a first request from the first storage control device, and  
wherein said predetermined data processing function includes direct backup, internal copying process between a pair of volumes, mirroring, or remote copying, and  
wherein the first storage control device provides a second storage area controlled by the second storage control device to the host device virtually as the first storage area under control of its own, and the first request requests the data processing relating to the first storage area.
3. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein the first storage control

device is to retain storage areas correspondence information indicating correspondence between the first storage area and the second storage area and to provide the first storage area virtually to the host device based on the storage areas correspondence information, so that the first storage means can execute data processing directed to the first storage area by the first request based on the storage areas correspondence information.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage system ~~according to Claim 1~~ comprising a first storage control device and a second storage control device connected so as to be capable of communicating with each other and executing data processing according to a request from a host device,

wherein the first storage control device comprises:

first control means for judging whether or not the second storage control device can execute a predetermined data processing function relating to a first request received from the host device and, only after said first control means judges that the second control device can execute said predetermined data processing function, said first control means generates a second request corresponding to the first request for taking over said predetermined data processing function by the second storage control device and transmits it to the second storage control device,

wherein the second storage control device comprises:

second control means for executing the predetermined data processing function based on the second request received from the first storage control device such that the second storage control device takes over said predetermined data processing function relating to a first request from the first storage control device, and

wherein said predetermined data processing function includes direct backup, internal copying process between a pair of volumes, mirroring, or remote copying, and

wherein the second request is configured to have the similar data structure to the first request.

5. (Currently Amended) A storage system ~~according to Claim 1~~ comprising a first storage control device and a second storage control device connected so as to be capable of communicating with each other and executing data processing according to

a request from a host device,

wherein the first storage control device comprises:

first control means for judging whether or not the second storage control device can execute a predetermined data processing function relating to a first request received from the host device and, only after said first control means judges that the second control device can execute said predetermined data processing function, said first control means generates a second request corresponding to the first request for taking over said predetermined data processing function by the second storage control device and transmits it to the second storage control device,

wherein the second storage control device comprises:

second control means for executing the predetermined data processing function based on the second request received from the first storage control device such that the second storage control device takes over said predetermined data processing function relating to a first request from the first storage control device, and

wherein said predetermined data processing function includes direct backup, internal copying process between a pair of volumes, mirroring, or remote copying, and

wherein the first control means confirms whether or not the second storage control device can execute the predetermined data processing function relating to the first request before transmitting the second request to the second storage control device.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 2, further comprising a backup device connected to both of the first storage control device and the second storage control device so as to be capable of communicating with each other,

wherein, in the case where data processing function relating to the first request is the direct backup processing function for transmitting and storing information stored in the first storage area to the backup device, the first control means judges whether or not the second storage control device can execute the direct backup processing function, and when it is judged that the second storage control device can execute the direct backup processing function, generates the second request by

converting the address of the first storage area contained in the first request into the address in the second storage area and transmits it to the second storage control device, and

wherein the second control means transfers and stores information stored in the second storage area to the backup device based on the second request.

9. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein the first storage control device further provides a first secondary storage area paired with the first storage area virtually, and the second storage control device further includes a second secondary storage area paired with the second storage area,

wherein, in the case where the predetermined data processing function relating to the first request is the internal copying processing function for copying information stored in the first storage area into the first secondary storage area, the first control means judges whether or not the second storage control device can execute the internal copying processing function,

wherein, when it is judged that the second storage control device can execute the internal copying processing function, the first control means generates and transmits the second request to the second storage control device by converting the address of the first storage area contained in the first request to the address of the second storage area, and

wherein the second control means copies information stored in the second storage area into the second secondary storage area based on the second request.

10. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 2, comprising a subsite which pairs with a main site including the first storage control device and the second storage control device, and being connected to the main site so as to be capable of communicating with each other, wherein the subsite comprises a remanent first storage control device and a remanent second storage control device, and the remanent first storage control device virtually provides a remanent second storage area controlled by the remanent second storage control device as a remanent first storage area which the remanent first storage control device controls,

wherein when the predetermined data processing function relating to the first request is the mirroring processing function for copying information stored in the first

storage area to the remanent first storage area of the subsite, the first control means of the main site judges whether or not both of the second storage control device and the remanent second storage control device can execute the mirroring processing function and, when it is judged that the respective second storage control device can execute the mirroring processing function, generates the second request corresponding to the first request, and transmits it to the second storage control device, and

wherein the second control means executes the mirroring processing function by copying information stored in the second storage area to the remanent second storage area based on the second request.

11. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 10, wherein the remanent first storage control device retains remanent function management information indicating data processing functions that the remanent second storage control device can execute, and

wherein the first control means judges whether or not the remanent second storage control device can execute the mirroring processing function by sending inquiries to the remanent first storage control device before transmitting the second request to the second storage control device.

12. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 10, wherein the first storage control device retains storage areas correspondence information indicating correspondence between the first storage area and the second storage area,

wherein the remanent first storage control device retains remanent storage areas correspondence information indicating correspondence between the remanent first storage area and the remanent second storage area, and

wherein the first control means transmits respective storage areas correspondence information when transmitting the second request to the second storage control device.

13. (Previously Presented) A storage system according to Claim 10, wherein the first storage control device comprises a renewed positional information retaining means for retaining information relating to the first storage area renewed by the host device during the mirroring processing, and

wherein the first control means generates the second request, reads renewed information from the second storage control device, and transmits the read information in order to store information renewed in the first storage area to the remanent first storage area based on the renewed positional information retaining means when the mirroring processing is completed.

14-16. (Cancelled)